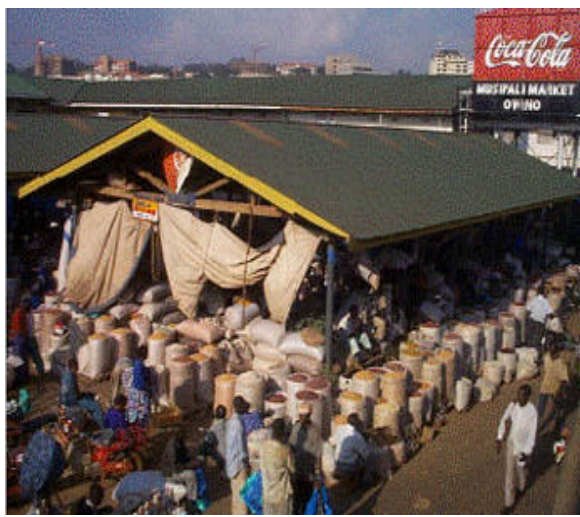


Market Information Service

A project funded by the ACDI PL-480



Fifth Report

October 00 – December 00

Compiled by A.K. Muganga, M. Namanya and E.K. Matovu

**Market Information Service
International Institute of Tropical Agriculture**

Table of Contents

Highlights of the Fifth quarter.....	3
Price data collection.....	4
Dissemination of market information.....	4
Uganda National Farmers Association invests in dissemination.....	4
More private sector involvement.	4
Communication with field data collectors	5
Progress on the Micro-MIS project.....	6
Volumes Traded.....	6
Appendix 1: Radio programs broadcasting Market Information in Uganda.	8
Appendix 2: Status of Computer equipment distributed to districts	9
Appendix 3: Radio Programs Broadcast in the fifth Quarter	10
Appendix 4: List of district data agents	31
Appendix 5: Weekly mailing list for market information.....	32
Appendix 6: Weekly Traded Volumes in Owino Market for Selected Agricultural Products From January to December 2000	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Appendix 7: Weekly Average Off Lorry Kampala Prices for Selected Commodities. Jan '00 to Dec '00	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Appendix 8: Retail and wholesale prices for selected districts in Uganda, October '00 to January '01	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Appendix 9: Wholesale prices of oils, whe at and rice in selected districts of Uganda Error! Bookmark not defined.	

Table of Figures

Figure 1: Volume of Rice, beans and groundnuts traded in Owino Market, January – December 2000	6
Figure 2: Volume of cassava flour, fresh cassava, rice and maize flour traded in Owino Market, January - December 2000	7
Figure 3: Volume of simsim, soyabean, millet and sorghum grain traded in Owino Market, Jan –December 2000	7

Highlights of the Fifth quarter

- Improved timelines for retrieval of field data.
- Improved and increased content of market news collected by data agents.
- Established a new contract with Radio Uganda to supply regular information to Eastern Uganda on the Kampala – Kapchorwa axis, radio programming will be done in 4 languages, Lumasaba, Lusoga, Kopsabiny, English. Beneficiaries will be approximately 1 million households.
- Market news on the national basis is now being delivered through 12 radio programs via 9 radio stations.
- UNFA have invested their communications budget into the IITA-FOODNET market information service to disseminate market news to the farmers.
- More private sector involvement in the MIS is emerging, for example, Radio Lira has doubled airtime dedicated to dissemination of market information. Radio Lira are also developing a new project with FOODNET to establish a new private sector radio station in Tororo, this move being particularly aimed at supporting cross – border trade.
- Some observations on efforts to improve communication between Kampala and 10 districts.
- Collecting localized market information in eastern Uganda.
- Up-to-date with trade volume information from Owino Market.

Price data collection

The timeliness of retrieval of information from the field has improved with 95% of the district reports coming in before or by Wednesday. This has enabled data to be captured and packaged by Friday of every week. In some districts, this is attributed to acquisition of new computers with e-mail connection that has led to increased data transfer from upcountry districts to Kampala.

During this quarter, the reporting of the data improved tremendously in terms of quality and quantity. The collectors have improved on the quality of other market news to cover detailed market news such as the crop condition, roads conditions, areas of high supply and demand and other comments. This was a result of the September 2000 workshop in which all collectors were trained and had extensive discussion on the reporting system.

Dissemination of market information

The project is strongly looking at disseminating the information in a localized manner. In the last quarter, a contract was signed with radio Uganda to have market information broadcast in four languages. These are Lumasaba, Kopsabiny and Lusoga all through its Butebo Channel. These four programs will provide localized market information to approximately four million households in Eastern Uganda. One advantage of these programs is that they are localized and in languages that members of these target areas understand.

Including the above four new programs, the project is now disseminating market information on 12 programs on 9 radios. If all listeners were interested in listening to market information, we would boost of covering 90 percent of them.

In the past quarter, and in a larger portion of the next, we predict that there will be no publication of market news in the press. This is likely to be attributed to the prevailing presidential campaigns that are receiving more coverage and attention than any other subject. This is even made worse given the fact that the project does not pay for this service.

Uganda National Farmers Association invests in dissemination

Another new development in the last quarter was that Uganda National Farmers Association; UNFA invested their communications budget into the IITA-FOODNET market information service to disseminate market news to the farmers. UNFA's contribution is to be channeled towards the sponsorship of some of the programs on radio Uganda. This is a very healthy achievement because is an indicator of growing confidence by different organisations in the MIS. It also shows that in future the MIS would be in position to attract some kind of funding from various NGO's and the private sector. This implies that the MIS has started having answers to questions like "How will you sustain yourselves if the donors start to pull out?"

More private sector involvement.

More private sector involvement in the MIS is emerging. With dissemination of market information being our current biggest expenditure, it was very good when Radio Lira doubled airtime dedicated to dissemination of market information in Northern Uganda. This was

because the radio was established to provide used full information to the community in areas of agriculture, health and education on top of the music that every radio station is providing.

In addition, Radio Lira are also developing a new project with FOODNET to establish a new private sector radio station in Tororo, this move being particularly aimed at supporting cross – border trade. This radio station will have the capacity of transmitting information to a big part of eastern Uganda and western Kenya covering Kisumu, Eldoret and Bungoma, which is the hub of agricultural trade in East Africa.

Communication with field data collectors

At the beginning of this quarter, one of the major problems we had was the difficulty of collecting data at a faster speed. There were many incidences when collectors informed us that they had failed to send the data in time because the equipment at the post office had broken down. It was therefore decided that we facilitate 10 districts with a computer and fax modem as a pilot test for this kind of arrangement. The computers were distributed to 8 districts.

As of now, there are only 4 functioning e-mails. The reasons for failure of functioning of the other e-mails are quite many and include poor telephone lines, budgetary constraints at the district for telephone bills and lack of other basic infrastructure such as electricity. Appendix 1 gives the status of each of the computer in the district and its constraints.

This simple case demonstrates that any effort targeted at improving communication facilities beyond the district head quarters to the rural sides such as sub counties or even counties should consider coming up with many technologies in order to make the projects successful.

The first thing to consider should be if the concerned district office has a secure location in which the equipment is to be installed. Secondly, ensure restricted use of equipment to project activities only to ensure longevity. One should look at capacity to replace computer accessories such as the printer cartridges and capacity to pay for e-mail connections at district level regularly.

Among the things to put under consideration should be whether there is regular supply of electricity in the location where these equipments are to be installed. This is a big problem in Arua where the district marketing officer has had to hire a generator whenever he has attempted to email.

In many districts like Gulu, Arua, Rakai and Kasese, the telephone exchanges there cannot get a connection into any Internet Service Provider in Kampala. In Rakai, the connection may be obtained but you would be luck to sustain it for more than two minutes. In Masindi, a connection can be obtained late at night and on weekends only. Africaonline has plans to expand to upcountry areas especially those served on the 045 code for the post office. This is when we may be able to utilize e-mails effectively in these areas.

Another problem faced by many districts including Kasese is that of the telephone bills that the district authority has failed to clear and is likely never to clear. Thanks to MTN, many of the district top employees are connected. In Mbarara, the telephone has not functioned for the last three months after a tree fell on the cable.

Given the above problems, should we just abandon the idea of improved communication in upcountry districts? We think no. In the next quarter, we would like to try out a new strategy. This will involve using wireless equipment to transfer data from upcountry districts to Kampala.

Progress on the Micro-MIS project

The micro MIS has now taken off. This is collecting localized market information in three pilot sites covering the areas of Jinja, Iganga, Mbale and Kapchorwa in Eastern Uganda; In Rakai and parts of Masaka in Southern Uganda and Gulu and Lira in Northern Uganda. The information collected from these areas is supplemented with that from the Macro MIS and broadcast in localized languages to these areas. The aim of this service is to provide information that is easily understood by the majority of farmers. This will go further to improve on market transparency in Uganda.

Volumes Traded

In this quarter, the collection of volumes traded has gone on well. We have been able to monitor the volumes traded of ten commodities in Owino market for a year now. These commodities include beans, millet grain, sorghum grain, rice, groundnuts, soya beans, simsim, fresh cassava, cassava flour and maize flour for the whole year. Next we are going to explore the old records of the market for a possibility of coming up with a longer time series data on trade volumes. We are also going to continue the monitoring of volumes traded. Attempts to expand to 5 major districts are going to be paramount. Figures 1 to 3 show the trade volumes of 10 major commodities in Owino Market for a period of one year. The major traded commodities in terms tonnage were beans and groundnuts that totaled to 10,414 and 10,481tonnes respectively. Appendix 6 shows the weekly traded volumes in Owino market for selected agricultural products from January to December 2000.

Figure 1: Volume of Rice, beans and groundnuts traded in Owino Market, January – December 2000

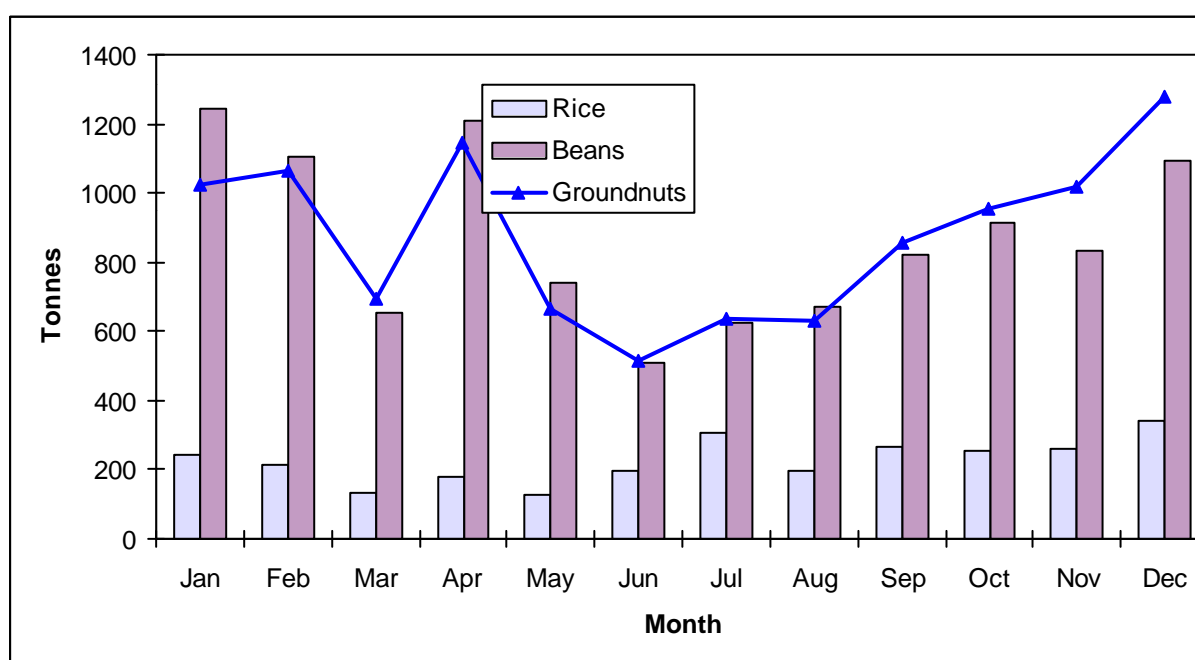


Figure 2: Volume of cassava flour, fresh cassava, rice and maize flour traded in Owino Market, January - December 2000

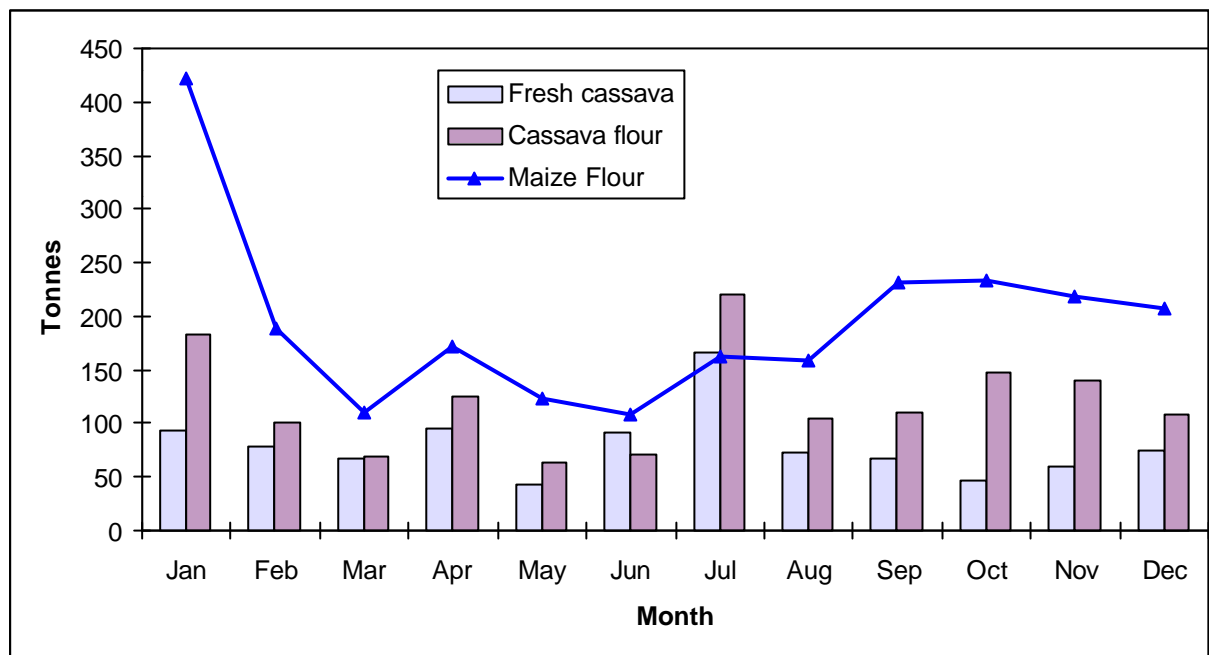
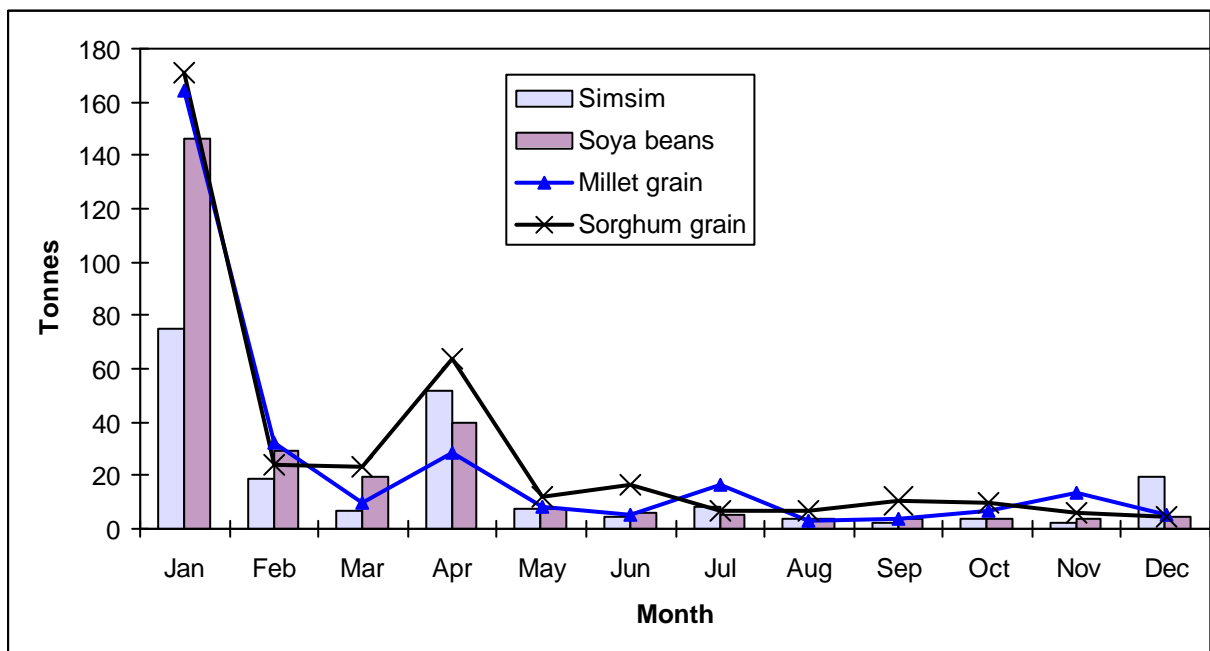


Figure 3: Volume of simsim, soyabean, millet and sorghum grain traded in Owino Market, Jan -December 2000



Appendix 1: Radio programs broadcasting Market Information in Uganda.

Radio	Program	Time	Languages	Sponsors	Districts Covered
Uganda Red Channel	Market Information	Sunday 9:45 PM	English	MIS, Micro-MIS, UNFA,FOODNET	All Districts
Uganda Butebo Channel	Market Information	Sunday 5:30 PM	Lumasaba	MIS, Micro-MIS, UNFA,FOODNET	Eastern Uganda
Uganda Butebo Channel	Market Information	Sunday 6:15 PM	Lusoga	MIS, Micro-MIS, UNFA,FOODNET	Eastern Uganda
Uganda Butebo Channel	Market Information	Saturday 4:15 PM	Kopsabiny	MIS, Micro-MIS, UNFA,FOODNET	Eastern Uganda
Central Boadcasting Service (CBS 88.8 FM)	Farmer's Voice	Sunday 7:00 PM	Luganda	MIS	Central, Eastern and Southern Uganda
CBS 88.8 (BUCADEF)	Ssaagala-agalamide	Sunday 8:00 PM	Luganda	MIS	
Paidha	Lunch Time Special	Monday 1:45 PM	English Lunyoro	MIS	West Nile,Masindi and Northern Uganda
Voice of Life	Market News		Lugbara Madi & English	Arua District Authority	West Nile (Moyo, Adjumani, Arua, Paidha)
Voice of Teso	"Agwelanar" Marketing News	Saturday	Iteso	Soroti District Authority	Eastern Uganda (Soroti, Kumi, & Katakwi)
Radio Lira	Market News	Tuesday 2:15 PM	Luo	Macro-MIS	Northern Uganda (Lira, Apac, Kitgum)
Gulu FM	Food Security And Marketing Program	Friday	Luo	World Vision	Northern Uganda (Lira, Apac, Kitgum)
Radio West	Market Report	Monday - Friday	4Rs	MIS	Western and Central Uganda

Appendix 2: Status of Computer equipment distributed to districts

District	Performance of e-mail connection	Next strategy
Jinja	Easy connection	
Kapchorwa	Easy connection	
Gulu	No capacity to dial into Africaonline. Explored possibility of linking to WFP radio link but the costs are high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To acquire MTN corporate line and obtain a data suit to enable data and fax facility.. ▪ Training in use of facility.
Arua	No capacity to dial into Africaonline, No electricity. Requires to hire a generator every time e-mailing is required. Explored possibility of linking to WFP radio link but the costs are high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To acquire MTN corporate line and obtain a data suit to enable data and fax facility. ▪ District Authorities have budgeted for a generator for the Production department ▪ Training in use of facility.
Masindi	Connects late in the evening and on weekends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Possibility of changing to MTN corporate line and obtain a data suit to enable data and fax facility ▪ Training in use of facility.
Mbarara	A tree fell on the telephone wire and it has taken 3 months without repair.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An attempt will be made as soon as telephone is reconnected. ▪ Possibility of changing to MTN corporate line and obtain a data suit to enable data and fax facility ▪ Training in use of facility.
Kasese	The telephone was disconnected one day after delivery of the computer. The district has no money to connect the phone. There is a very high likelihood that the telephone exchange can not support use of e-mail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To acquire MTN corporate line and obtain a data suit to enable data and fax facility. ▪ District Authorities have budgeted for a generator for the Production department
Masaka	Not yet delivered the computer due to lack of secure office facilities at the district to house the equipment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attempts to acquire better premises near completion. ▪ Possibility of changing to MTN corporate line and obtain a data suit to enable data and fax facility ▪ Training in use of facility.
Kampala-Owino	Failed to deliver the computer because of the wrangles in the market management. We have failed to establish the controlling authority in the market that would be responsible for the equipments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Familiarization with the different market authorities
Rakai	Can connect to Africaonline with allot of difficulty. Usually requires a full day before success. Also needs to connect at 4,800 bps only.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Possibility of changing to MTN corporate line and obtain a data suit to enable data and fax facility ▪ Training in use of facility.

Appendix 3: Radio Programs Broadcast in the fifth Quarter

15 Minutes Radio Program The NEW Market Information Service

Duration: 15 Minutes
Date: 20/10/2000
Author: Namanya Moses

Introduction.

Dear Listeners,

We welcome you once again to “Market News” which brings you information about new developments from the Marketplace and tells you the latest information about commodity prices and the factors, which are affecting prices of agricultural products in Uganda. This Market information service is brought to you by the FOODNET Project and is funded by USAID.

District Market News

Arua

Despite presence of various types of foodstuffs on the market, their general prices kept on increasing during the past week, with the exception of milk. This week the wholesale price range for milk is 300/= to 500/= and most frequent price in the market being shillings. 400/= per litre, down from 650/= last week. The price of groundnuts has gone up. The wholesale price range for the previous week was at 700/= to 800/= with the most frequent price being 750/=. This week the wholesale price range is 800/= to 900/=:, with the most frequent price being 850/=. This increase in commodity prices has been attributed to the fall of the Uganda shilling against the US dollar and the rise in fuel prices.

Lira

The price of local varieties of matooke has decreased. Last week the price of matooke ranged from 1700/= to 1740/= with the most frequent price being 1740/= for a ten kilogram bunch. This week the price range is 190/= to 195/= with the most frequent price in the market being 194/= per kilogram. The price of cassava has increased, up from between 85/= – 90/= last week to between 120/= – 125/= this week. This price increase has been attributed to scarcity of fresh cassava and cassava chips due depletion of the old stock planted during the first season last year.

Masaka

The prices of foodstuffs continued to be high this week with slight changes. Prices of matooke fell. Last week the price of matooke ranged from 200/= to 230/= with the most frequent price being 215/= per kilogram, down from shillings 220/= that was the prevalent price in the market last week. The prices of cassava and potatoes increased due to scarcity. The price of cassava ranged from 180/= to 220/= last week with the frequent price in the market being 200/=. This week the price is up to Shillings. 215/=:, ranging from 200/= to 220/=. The prices of other commodities remained relatively stable.

Kasese

There is generally a food shortage in the district which has made the prices of foodstuffs to go up, especially matooke, millet and sweet potatoes which are brought in from outside the district (Bushenyi). The current wholesale price of both millet grain and fresh sweet potatoes is shillings 400/=, up from shillings. 350/= per kilogram last week. The price of maize grain has shot up due to high demand of maize flour from Kabale district. The current wholesale price of maize grain is 300/= up from 280/= last week. The prices of other commodities have generally remained stable this week.

Luwero

The supply of matooke has diminished causing the price to go up. This has been attributed to decreased supply from Masaka and other supplying areas as a result of the off-season. An average bunch that was costing 4500/= last week now costs 5500/=. The prices of the closest substitutes, cassava and sweet potatoes have also increased due to decreased supply in the market. The average wholesale price of fresh cassava this week is 225/= up from 200/= last week. There is a big increase in the price of wholesale rice, with no significant change at the retail level. This week the frequent price of rice is 500/= down from 800/= last week. There is no significant variation for other products.

Mbale

The price of sweet potatoes fell due to increased supply from Kumi and Soroti. The dry beans and millet grain rose due to scarcity. There has been scarcity of soybean and simsim due to poor harvests during the previous season. Consequently these commodities were not in supply this week. The price of G. nuts rose from between 950/= and 1000/= last week to between 1000/= and 1100/= this week.

**15 Minutes Radio Program
The NEW Market Information Service**

Duration: 15 Minutes
Date: 27/10/2000
Author: Namanya Moses

Introduction.

Dear Listeners,

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District Market News

This past week, most of the districts of western and southern Uganda have received more than average rainfall. In Mbarara the rainfall was heavy and destructive causing extensive damage to the beans that were flowering and banana plantations. While in Masindi district, heavy rains are reported to have swept away several small bridges and have made Masindi-Butiaba road impassable. The Masindi-Kigumba road is also reported to be crossed by water

at several points. Similar reports of heavy and destructive rains are from Kabale district where rainwater has submerged peoples' gardens and destroyed planted food crops.

Reports from the eastern districts of Uganda also indicate heavy downpours of rain in most districts. In Kumi and Soroti districts, the heavy rains have rendered cassava chips drying rather difficult thus causing temporary scarcity of cassava chips on the market. Traders in Mbale and Tororo have also complained of the low supplies of cassava chips from Kumi and Soroti.

Arua

Most of the prices of food crops remained constant. Prices of cassava have increased slightly because of too much rain that has hindered drying. Last week the average price of cassava chips was Shillings.390/= per kilogram. This week the price increased to 400/= per kilogram. Most supplies of cassava were from Nebbi, Lira and Soroti districts. The price of beans has remained constant during the week due to supplies from Kampala, Jinja and Mbale. Generally, the food situation in the district was quite good this week.

Gulu

Due to restricted movements in and out of the villages caused by the Ebola problem, prices of most foodstuffs have increased in the district. Last week the price of fresh cassava ranged from 94/= to 100/= per kilogram, with the frequent price in the market being 100/=. This week the most frequent price was 110/= per kilogram. The average price of maize flour increased from 480/= per kilogram last week to 500/= per kilogram this week. More price changes are expected after the completion of drying and harvesting of second rains crop. The weather still remains wet and rainy.

Iganga

There has been an increase in the price of Matooke due to hiked transport costs from Mbale where most supplies come from. This week the price of Matooke ranged from 243/= to 286/= per kilogram, with the most quoted price being 280/= whereas last week Matooke prices ranged from 150/= to 200/= per kilogram, with price average of 190/=. Prices of other commodities remained fairly constant this week.

Jinja

There has been a marked fall in the prices of fresh foodstuffs. Last week Matooke prices ranged from 280/= to 296/= per kilogram, with the average price of 287/= per kilogram. This week the average price of Matooke was 260/=. Price of fresh cassava dropped to an average of 180/= this week from an average of 329/= last week. Price of sweet potato dropped to an average of 195/= per kilogram this week, from an average of 335/= per kilogram last week. This price decrease has been attributed to low demand of locally produced produce.

Lira

Compared to last week, prices of sorghum, maize, millet and simsim grains have remained constant. Last week beans were retailing at 600/= per kilogram, but it has fallen to 500/= this week. This has been as a result of low demand from buyers who bought last week on contract and have not yet demanded for extra quantities. Prices of groundnuts have shot up to 1500/= per kilogram. This is due to scarcity as a result of yields not having been good this season from all over the district. Cassava continued to remain scarce in the market this week. The

price per 100 kg sack is at 16,000/=, and traders complain of double charges they have to pay for each sack to those who tender the routes and the markets.

Tororo

The prices of cassava chips and flour are still high due to hardly any supplies in the markets. This is due to cassava failing to dry because of much rains, which have also made most feeder roads impassable thus hampering transport to market places. Some commodities like millet and maize grains are completely out of stock following the end of the first season. Maize now wholesales at 26,000/= per bag and may reach 30,000/= by next week because there are no supplies in the stores.

NB: For prices of various commodities, please refer to the spreadsheet.

15 Minutes Radio Program The NEW Market Information Service

Duration: 15 Minutes
Date: 3/11/2000
Author: Namanya Moses

Introduction.

Dear Listeners,

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District Market News

This week, most of the districts of western and southern Uganda continued to receive more than average rainfall. In Masindi the rainfall was heavy and destructive leading to most feeder roads being impassable and as reported, some small bridges have been swept away, especially along the Masindi-Butiaba road. The Masindi-Kigumba road is also reported to be crossed by water at several points. Similar reports of heavy and destructive rains are from Kabale district where rainwater has submerged peoples’ gardens and destroyed planted food crops.

Reports from the northern districts of Uganda also indicate heavy downpours of rain. In Lira, Kumi and Soroti districts, the heavy rains have rendered cassava chips drying rather difficult thus causing temporary scarcity of cassava chips on the market.

Arua

The district received fairly scattered rainfall this week, which has caused crops like, groundnuts, beans, sorghum and millet to flourish. Prices of foodstuffs have remained mostly constant this week, with variations in some commodities like groundnuts whose wholesale price was 850/=. The wholesale price of maize flour came down to 450/= this week, from an

average price of 500/= last week. However, these slight changes in food prices have not affected supply on the market. Supplies continue to be received from Nebbi, Lira, Mbale, Kampala, Soroti and the DRC thus ensuring stability of the market supply.

Gulu

The supply of most of the commodities from the rural areas has continued to be hampered by the Ebola outbreak. Movement is restricted leading to an increase in most commodity prices and reduced buyers coming from outside the district. As a result, wholesale prices of cassava and maize flour, groundnuts, maize grain, simsim and sorghum flour have increased. Last week cassava was wholesaling at 550/= per kilo. This week, the price increased to 600/=. Average price of groundnuts has increased from 800/= per kilo to 900/= this week, while average wholesale price of maize flour increased from 500/= last week to 550/= this week. As for beans, despite increased supply from Kagoma County, the price has increased

Jinja

Last week prices of most fresh foodstuffs registered a marked fall. This week the trend has reversed and prices of most fresh commodities increased. The wholesale price range of fresh cassava last week ranged between 150/= to 200/= per kilo with an average of 180/=. This week the most frequent price in the market was 195/= per kilogra. The average wholesale price of sweet potatoes also increased to 204/= per kilo this week, up from 195/= per kilo last week. This increase in prices has been attributed to increased demand on the market.

Kasese

The weather remained cool and rainy. A good beans yield is expected this season but heavy rainfall may spoil the quality due to very high moisture. The prices of beans dropped due to an increase in the supply of fresh and dry beans on the market. Last week beans were wholesaling at an average of 550/= per kilo, with the price ranging from 500/= to 550/=. This week the most frequent wholesale price of beans in the market was 330/= per kilo. The price of smoked fish dropped from an average of 1500/= last week to 1300/= this week. This price decrease has been attributed to the lifting of the ban on night fishing.

Lira

This week there was low supply of sweet potatoes compared to the previous weeks when there was over supply. This pushed the wholesale from 98/= per kilo to 112/=. This is because some farmers have decided to stock their potatoes due to over supply. Sellers complain of few buyers and a sack currently sales between 15,000/= to 16,000/=. The level of supply of fresh cassava has decreased due to farmers fearing the double charges taxed on a bag of cassava. As a result, sellers have started going directly to farmer's gardens to buy cassava. Prices of Matooke have also dropped due to over supply from the increased supply besides lack of money from consumers that has forced them to resort to other substitutes, which are affordable.

15 Minutes Radio Program
The NEW Market Information Service

Duration: 15 Minutes
Date: 10/11/2000
Author: Nahamya Martin

Introduction.

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District Market News

Arua

This week, Arua district has been generally sunny and dry with occasional rains during the night. This is favourable for the growth of maize, groundnuts and millet, which are still in the gardens. The food situation in the district has improved tremendously as prices continue to be stable with the exception of cassava chips, which still remains highest in the country at Shillings. 380/= per kg. The local production of cassava in the district does not meet the local demand such that a lot of cassava chips comes in from the Eastern districts of the country.

Gulu

Due to restrictions in movement into the rural areas, the supply of sweet potatoes, cassava chips, millet and sorghum reduced consequently the prices of these commodities have increased. Cassava chips was wholesaling at Shillings. 240/= the previous week and is currently at Shillings. 250/= per kg. Millet grain at wholesale was costing Shillings. 250/= the previous week and is now costing Shillings. 300/= per kg. The supply of commodities from other districts has also reduced. Commodities like matooke and smoked fish are in short supply. The prices of beans Kanyebwa, groundnuts, maize grain, rice and sim sim dropped due to the second season crops coming into the market. Currently the wholesale price of beans Kanyebwa is at Shillings. 300/= per kg while that of small beans is at Shillings. 220/=. Maize grain is wholesaling at Shillings. 200/= per kg and sim sim is at Shillings. 850/= per kg. There are very few buyers coming in from other districts due to the fear of the epidemic.

Iganga and Jinja

Maize prices continue to drop in price because of the increased supply from within Iganga district. Currently the wholesale price of maize grain is at Shillings. 250/= in Iganga and at Shillings. 265/= in Jinja. A lot of maize is also said to be coming in from the districts of Kapchorwa and Lira.

Lira

The supply of cassava has improved in the market this week than the previous week. A sack of cassava fresh the previous week was selling at Shillings. 13,000/= from the farmers garden but has now fallen to Shillings. 12,000/= per sack this week in the market. The farmers are

bring it themselves and this has been due to appeals made over radio Lira that tenderers should consider farmers' problems and give appropriate charges. There is moderate supply of sweet potatoes on the market and a sack in the market costs Shillings. 13,000/= while those buying and taking to a place called Namasale near lake Kyoga, a bag costs Shillings. 15,000/=. Generally the prices of other commodities like matooke, beans e.t.c remain stable with the market receiving a lot of businessmen from Kampala buying a lot of maize, millet and simsim.

Luwero

The price of matooke has increased reason being that this week there has been no supply from trucks and this is a result of matooke being off-season in the main growing areas of Masaka and Mbarara. An average bunch of about 20kg costs between Shillings. 6,000/= to 7,000/= and yet still the demand is very high in this banana eating area. The prices of cassava and sweet potato have remained stable with a heap of approximately 2kg costing Shillings. 600/=. Fresh beans are reported to be many on the market, however this has not affect the price of dry beans, which are wholesaling at Shillings. 500/= per kg.

Masaka

The prices of most foodstuffs showed a considerable drop due to more quantity being brought to the market. The price of beans dropped as new harvest came to the market. Previously the price at wholesale of beans was at Shillings. 600/= per kg and is currently at Shillings. 550/= per kg. The price of cassava flour dropped from Shillings. 400/= to Shillings. 330/= per kg while the price of groundnuts dropped from Shillings. 1,200/= to Shillings. 1150/= per kg.

Mbale

There is scarcity of fresh cassava in Mbale there by forcing the price to increase. Currently the price of fresh cassava per kg is at Shillings. 150/= down from about Shillings. 130/= the previous week. Major consumers have shifted to eating other foodstuffs like sweet potatoes. The price of matooke and sweet potatoes fell due to increased supply from Mbale and Kumi where farmers are busy harvesting. In Buteza, one of Mbale's matooke markets, a number of farmers were unable to sell their matooke indicating excess supply.

Soroti

Both the wholesale and retail prices of matooke dropped from Shillings. 330/= per kg last week to Shillings. 280/= per kg this week and Shillings. 430/= per kg to Shillings. 350 per kg this week respectively. This is due to the dry spell in Mbale making the producing areas that are mountainous accessible. Although the wholesale price of cassava (Fresh) dropped from Shillings. 123/= per kg to Shillings. 113/= per kg the retail price increased from Shillings. 138/= to Shillings. 160/= per kg due to high demand for domestic consumption.

Demand for Cassava chips has dropped this week forcing prices downwards from Shillings. 300/= per kg to Shillings. 280/= per kg. There was increased supply due to the dry spell and availability of Potatoes as an alternative. This has also affected the price of cassava flour, which has dropped due to low demand.

Both wholesale and retail prices of sweet potatoes dropped this week from Shillings. 160/= per kg to 138/= per kg and Shillings. 154/= per kg to Shillings. 125/= per kg respectively due to increase in supply as most farmers are harvesting.

There was a drop in the wholesale price of groundnuts from Shillings. 850/= last week to Shillings. 800/= per kg this week due to increased supply from Katakwi district which is harvesting at the moment.

15 Minutes Radio Program
The NEW Market Information Service

Duration: 15 Minutes
Date: 17/11/2000
Author: Nahamya Martin

Introduction.

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District Market News

Kasese

Kasese is still receiving occasional rains and this has made it difficult for the beans to dry. The moisture content is still very high. Despite the high moisture content the demand for beans is high. Lorries are ferrying beans to Rwanda via Kabale. Currently the wholesale price of beans is at Shillings. 380/= per kg and the retail price is at Shillings. 500/= per kg. In Kabale town the wholesale price of beans is at Shillings. 520/= per kg and Shillings. 600/= per kg at retail.

Arua

The past week has been sunny and dry with a lot of wind. The common talk from the farmers is that, hunger may strike Arua again as the sunny period may affect the favourable harvests expected from commodities like beans, groundnuts and sorghum. Currently the supply of beans in the market has reduced and the small supply is being shared between Arua and Moyo markets. This situation may continue to worsen as the sunny spell is already affecting the flowering of beans. The wholesale price of beans in the market is at Shillings. 450/= per kg and retail at Shillings. 500/= per kg. Cassava chips remain expensive as a result the prices of Matooke, fresh cassava and sweet potatoes have gone up. Supplies still continue to come from outside. Frequent movements to cheaper markets by traders have decreased due to fear of the Ebola epidemic in the neighbouring regions. The prices of grains have become expensive with maize grain going up from Shillings. 400/= the previous week to Shillings. 450/= per kg this week, millet grain price has gone up from Shillings. 420/= to Shillings. 450/= per kg.

Soroti

The weather is generally hot and dry in many places in the district. Only a few places received light rainfall in some parts of Kasilo county and Kaberamaido county. Both the wholesale and retail prices of matooke have dropped from Shillings. 280/= per kg last week to Shillings. 186/= this week and also from Shillings. 350/= last week to Shillings. 200/= per kg this week respectively. The reason is that there was a lot of supply of matooke over the past weekend coming from the hills of Mbale and also an increased supply of sweet potatoes.

The wholesale price of groundnuts has increased from Shillings. 800/= per kg last week to Shillings. 850/= per kg this week. This is attributed to increased demand of groundnuts in Iganga, Jinja and Busia. The increased supply of maize grain from rural areas brought about by favourable weather conditions in the second season has started to have an impact on the price of maize flour. The wholesale price has dropped from Shillings. 430/= to Shillings. 425/= per kg and a further drop is anticipated.

Lira

The supply of sweet potatoes has gone high this week compared to the previous week. The price per sack has risen to Shillings. 14,000/= this week compared to Shillings 13,000/= the previous week. This is because the demand and consumption rate has increased taking advantage over cassava, which is scarce in the market sometimes. The price of cassava per sack has risen from Shillings. 12,000/= the previous week to Shillings. 14,000/= per sack this week.

Tororo

There is scarcity of millet in Tororo markets. This has pushed up the wholesale price from Shillings. 35,000/= to Shillings. 40,000/= per 100kg sack. Maize grain from Sebei (Kapchorwa) has started to enter the market and is wholesaling at Shillings. 24,000/= where as the maize from within Tororo and Bugiri districts is at Shillings. 25,000/= and this is so because of the good quality of maize grain from these districts

15 Minutes Radio Program The NEW Market Information Service

Duration: 15 Minutes
Date: 24/11/2000
Author: Nahamya Martin

Introduction.

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District Market News

Arua

The week has been mainly sunny and dry. Very little rain was received during the past week. The dry period is already affecting crops like beans and groundnuts. However, sorghum, which is resistant to heat, may survive as can be seen from the out come of the 1st season production. The 2nd season sorghum production may be affected as reported earlier. The food situation in the district is that prices of foodstuff in the market have apparently remained constant with only little changes in some of the commodities. Many people converge in the market in the early hours of the morning to sell their produce. This apparently has kept

supplies constant. However the purchasing power by the consumers is low. Many traders are fully involved in beans business with Moyo. The wholesale price currently is at Shillings. 450/= per kg and the retail price is Shillings. 500/= per kg. Arua still continues to receive supplies of cassava chips and flour as well as maize grain from other districts like Mbale, Iganga, Lira, Kampala, Nebbi and the DRC. The EBOLA epidemic has restricted the movement of businessmen to cheaper areas of Gulu, Masindi and Mbarara.

Gulu

Unlike in the previous weeks, most of the commodities have shown a marked reduction in their prices as the situation eases. There is fairly free movement for the traders into the rural producing areas and generally the commodities currently in the market are from the 2nd season harvest. However there is increased supply of beans (small) from neighbouring districts and with in the local area. Currently the wholesale price for beans is at Shillings. 350/= this week up from Shillings. 500/= the previous week. At retail however the price is Shillings. 400/=. Other commodities with a price drop include cassava fresh, sweet potatoes and groundnuts, which are wholesaling at Shillings. 850/=.

Tororo

There is a general scarcity in items like millet, maize, beans, soya and cassava chips/flour. This has caused an increase in the price such that soya beans increased from Shillings. 600/= per kg last week to Shillings. 650/= this week. The cost of a bag of cassava flour went up from Shillings. 24,000/= to Shillings. 28,000/= this week per 100kg bag. The price of fish has further dropped such that an average fish of 2kg costs Shillings 3,600/= at retail and Shillings. 3,400/= at wholesale.

Lira

Kanyebwa beans from Masindi are in high supply and of a good quality compared to the local supply in Lira district. The wholesale price is at Shillings. 500/= and retail at Shillings. 600/=. The common white and black small beans wholesale at Shillings. 330/= and retail at Shillings 350/=. These are however the most consumed variety of beans in Lira. Sweet potatoes are in plenty and this has made the price to drop, currently the common tradable quantity is a heap, which costs Shillings. 200/= up from Shillings. 300/= the previous week. The rate of consumption has apparently increased because of the scarcity of cassava fresh in the market. A lot of mixed beans is under purchase by traders from Rwanda. The travelling traders are buying at Shillings. 250/= per kg. Other traders from outside the district include Busia businessmen who are purchasing maize and green grains.

Kitgum

The demand for simsim in the district is very high. It is reported that many buyers from outside the district purchasing the commodity which has pushed the price up to Shillings. 650/= at wholesale and Shillings. 800/= at retail. The supply is from the rural areas of Kitgum and it is of high quality. Millet is still highly demanded for both local brewing and for consumption. At wholesale the price is Shillings. 250/= and Shillings. 300/= at retail. However the stock available on the market is getting exhausted such that people are beginning to stock for their own consumption.

Masindi

Prices for most produce remained relatively stable throughout the week with the exception of maize whose price threatened to fall. Most traders here remained very cautious while purchasing maize grain. The current wholesale price is at Shillings. 235/= and the retail price

is at Shillings. 250/=. Beans commonly known as “lira beans” are now in plenty in the district since traders in Masindi are gaining greatly from the low prices being offered in lira and Apac districts. The small beans at wholesale cost Shillings. 450/= and Shillings. 500/= at retail. Dry cassava chips remain very scarce in the district and yet on very high demand.

15 Minutes Radio Program
The NEW Market Information Service

Duration: 15 Minutes
Date: 24/11/2000
Author: Namanya Moses

Introduction.

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District Market News

Arua

This ending month has been relatively sunny and dry with isolated cases of rains. Likewise, this week has been mainly dry too except for slight rain that was received on Monday. Therefore, hopes of good bean harvest are running out and the second harvest is estimated to yield only 10 to 20 percent, according to the district production Office in Arua. The average wholesale price of beans has remained stable at 450/= per kilo despite the small stock on the market. Most sorghum is at flowering stage leading to decreased supply in the market. Consequently the price has shifted up. This week the average prices of sorghum grain and flour were 500/= and 600/= respectively, up from 450/= and 500/= last week. This being the harvest season for sweet potatoes, they are in high supply. However, their price remained relatively cheap at 150/= per kilo, hence are most favoured by the people. This has caused a slight decrease in the price of the close substitute - cassava chips, from an average of 390/= last week to 370/= this week. Christmas shopping is beginning to pick off and prices are expected to show an increasing trend.

Gulu

Restricted movement within the district arising out of the Ebola epidemic has led to a sustained low demand of most commodities. Consequently, prices of bananas, fresh sweet potatoes, cassava and millet flour, and simsim have dropped. This week cassava and millet flour are wholesaling at 600/= and 470/= per kilo respectively, down from 650/= and 500/= last week, fresh sweet potatoes at 170/= down from 180/=. As for sorghum grain, there has been an increase in price mainly due to reduced supply on the market. Last week sorghum grain was wholesaling at an average price of 200/= per kilo. This week the price is 250/=. Prices of other commodities have remained constant.

Iganga

The price of Matooke has continued to be high due to high costs of transportation from mainly Mbale and Mbarara. This week the average whole sale price of Matooke is 284/= per kilo, whereas last week the wholesale price was 282/=. Simsim is at present only sourced in Lira. Its price is, therefore, on the increase. A kilo of simsim is wholesaling at an average price of 850/= this week whereas last week it was at 800/=. Prices of most other commodities remain stable and supply in the markets is adequate.

Jinja

Has generally been hot this week with scattered rains in a few areas. The food baskets are full as farmers start harvesting maize in certain areas thus solving the problem of food shortage in the district. This new harvest has caused a wide variation in the price of maize. This week the wholesale prices range from 200/= to 260/=. The new maize being at the lower edge of this range. Last week the price range was 250/= to 260/=. However, the average price remains stable at 250/=. The price of matooke has increased to 294/= per kilo this week from 245/= last week because most suppliers are farmers from Bugerere who have the habit of delivering their produce in the market late in the evening.

Kampala

All markets registered adequate supply of most commodities and services. Some commodities were however scarce due to the off-season in production caused by erratic weather that hampered harvests in some produce generating regions, especially northern and eastern Uganda. The supply of beans is good due to the new harvest consequently the average wholesale prices have dropped slightly as compared with last week. The wholesaling price is at an average of 450/= in most markets whereas last week the wholesale price was about 500/=. The supply of matooke from the west is low leading to increased prices. This week a kilo of matooke is at an average of 300/= at wholesale level up from 270/= last week.

Kasese

This week the price of matooke, cassava chips and flour increased due to scarcity on the market. Bananas are wholesaling at 330/= a kilo up from 300/= last week, cassava chips and flour at 300/= and 450/= respectively, up from 280/= and 400/= last week. The price of beans dropped from 350/= to 300/= a kilo due to an increase in supply from farmers. There was also a temporary decline in demand following a scare of ADF attack in Rwimi sub-county, Kabarole District. The weather has been sunny with scattered rain showers – which is conducive for drying of beans.

Lira

There has been a moderate supply of cassava due to consumers showing less interest in it, preferring sweet potatoes instead. Cassava has as a result registered an increase in wholesale price of 225/= a kilo up from 152/= last week. Due to increased demand, sweet potatoes have registered a marked increase in price. This week the wholesale price is 215/= a kilo as compared to last week's 70/=. The prices for other commodities remain generally stable.

Masindi

Very little rain was received on Wednesday and Tuesday in the areas in and around Masindi. Maize is relatively scarce within Masindi town. Currently the wholesale price of maize is 240 compared to 200 shillings in the first week of October. It is reported that many traders have shifted and buying maize in the small trading centres in the maize growing areas and

this is where the Kampala Traders drive directly to when in search for maize. This has gone on well due to relatively good roads.

It is reported that dry cassava is very scarce in the district because most of it is sold fresh. Farmers have realised that they get more profits when they sell the cassava fresh than if it is dried.

15 Minutes Radio Program
The NEW Market Information Service

Duration: 15 Minutes
Date: 1/12/2000
Author: Namanya Moses

Introduction.

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District Market News

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Iganga

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Jinja

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Kasese

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Lira

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Masindi

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15 Minutes Radio Program
The NEW Market Information Service

Duration: 15 Minutes
Date: 7/12/2000
Author: Namanya Moses

Introduction.

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District Market News

Arua

This week has been sunny, dry and dusty with no rains received. This sunny spell has on one hand favoured cassava farmers who are busy preparing their plantations, but on the other hand it has disappointed those expectant of high bean harvests. Prices of most foodstuffs remained stable this week with the only changes registered in matooke, which have become more expensive due to high demand. This week matooke was available in the market at 250/= at wholesale and 300/= retail, up from 200/= and 250/= respectively last week. Cassava chips and groundnuts still remained expensive due to low supply on the market. Like for last week, the wholesale price of cassava chips was 380/= this week, very close to the all-time high of 400/=. Presently, groundnuts are wholesaling at 950/= a kilo up from an average of 900/= last week. Otherwise consumer activity in the market is high as people go ahead with their Christmas shopping.

Gulu

Consumer activity remained to low in the market place this week due to the escalating Ebola scare, which has restricted the movements and interactions of both buyers and sellers. Thus local businessmen are stockpiling produce in anticipation of a boom in sales later. Produce movement from rural areas has, however, increased because farmers are stepping up sales in preparation for the Christmas season. Notable price changes were registered in sweet potatoes, fresh cassava and flour, maize flour and sorghum grains, whose prices fell this week due to increased local supply. Sweet potatoes are now wholesaling at 164/= per kilogram, fresh cassava at 90/=:, cassava flour at 480/=:, maize flour at 450/=: and sorghum flour at 230/=: . The subsidising of the rainy season and onset of the dry season makes accessibility of the rural areas easier, and the drying of second season crops now harvested, faster.

Jinja

This week areas around Kakira, Wairaka, Wanyange and Nabitambala received heavy rain consequently making farmers busy planting annual crops like potatoes. Harvesting of maize from Ntinkalu in Bunya continued, and this has contributed to a drop in the price of maize grain, but so far with little impact on the price of maize flour. This week the wholesale price of maize grain dropped to an average of 235/= from 250/= last week. Though areas around Kakira, especially Namaganga and Iziru have started harvesting groundnuts, they are mainly using it for subsistence consumption, leading to decreased supply on the market, which has precipitated higher prices. This week at wholesale level, groundnuts were selling at an average of 1300/=, as compared with last week's price of 1150/=.

Kabale

News from Kabale is that the district received heavy rains, which are likely to affect food crops. Food prices are generally high but the price of beans has gone down due to large imports brought into the district by Rwandan traders. A kilo of beans is costing an average of 430/= at wholesale level, whereas last week the price was 460/=. The price of bananas has gone down from 450/= a kilo to 400/= this week at wholesale level. This has been attributed to increased supply.

Lira

There has been rainfall in a few places but most of the places remained sunny with cloudy intervals in a few places. Matooke has been in moderate supply and prices have risen slightly due to high demand by foreign buyers from Kitgum, Gulu and Kotido. A big bunch of 15kg was selling at a retail price of 4500/= and whole selling at 4000/=. A sac of fresh cassava was selling at 14000/= and supply is increasing to keep at pace with demand for the Christmas season. The price of maize grain has increased due to increased demand by businessmen from Busia and Kampala who are buying from 270/= to 280/= a kilo compared to last week's price of 220/=. Other commodity prices remained relatively constant.

Kampala

Major markets of Owino, Kisenyi and Nakawa received adequate supply of most commodities and services despite short supply in some producing regions attributed to bad weather and transport problems. Therefore, supply was consistent with demand. Beans- both new and old harvests are wholesaling at 550/= a kilo up from 450/= last week. This increase has been attributed to high moisture that has hampered drying. The presence of Kenyan buyers on the market has not fluctuated the price of beans significantly. Except for Nakawa, maize flour supply in other market was good and price is stable at an average of 500/= a kilo at wholesale level.

Masindi

Hot and dry conditions are being experienced in most parts of the district. Most roads are passable, which has enabled the traders to reach the farmers easily. However, most people are restrictive in their movements as a result of the Ebola outbreak in the district. The prices of most foodstuffs remained steady, except for matooke and sweet potatoes which registered price decreases from 200/= and 160/= respectively last week, to 175/= and 130/= this week..

Mbarara

Heavy rains were received during the week, which favoured growth of millet, maize and groundnuts but was detrimental to beans, which could not dry properly. Price of banana increased from an average of 160/= a kilo last week to 185/= this week. Increase is due to low supply since bananas are out of season. Groundnuts have fallen in price from 1300/= a kilo at

wholesale level to 1200/=. This decline is due to de-stocking by traders in preparation for next seasons harvest.

Soroti

Light rains were received in several places, but the weather remained generally hot and dry. This week the price for both cassava fresh and chips reduced due to consumer preference for sweet potatoes, which are in abundant supply. Fresh cassava dropped from 113/= per kilo to 87/=, while cassava chips dropped from 300/= to 270/= this week. Also there is increase in supply of cassava as it is easy to dry and farmers are selling in preparation for Christmas festivities. Likewise, cassava dropped from 300/= last week to 280/= this week. Prices of sorghum grain and flour have reduced due to low demand and an increase in supply resulting from current harvests. The grain reduced from 250/= to 220/= per kilo, whereas the flour reduced from 300/= to 280/= a kilo at wholesale level.

NB: For various commodity prices please check on the spreadsheet.

15 Minutes Radio Program The NEW Market Information Service

Duration: 15 Minutes
Date: 15/12/2000
Author: Namanya Moses

Introduction.

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District Market News

Arua

Like last week, this week continued to be sunny, windy and dry; and farmers already perceive these as signs of the dry season setting in. However, they remain expectant of the rain showers that usually grace the Christmas week. Foodstuffs in the market are plenty but prices have been moderately high due to increased shopping as people prepare for Christmas. Prices of fresh sweet potatoes increased from 150/= a kilo to 200/= this week, millet flour from 750/= to 800/=:, soybean from 500/= to 600/= while price of milk increased from 300/= a litre to 400/=:, all at wholesale level. Prices of other commodities remained stable this week.

Gulu

There has been increased supply of almost all foodstuffs on the market due not only to traders anticipating high demand that usually characterises the Christmas season, but also increased

output from second season's harvest. Unfortunately, due to the Ebola scare, demand has been less than anticipated; consequently prices of most foodstuffs have fallen. Last week, sweet potatoes were wholesaling at an average of 130/= a kilo, cassava flour at 480/=, groundnuts at 850/= and simsim at 770/=. This week, prices have fallen to 110/= a kilo, for sweet potatoes, 420/= for cassava flour, 800/= for groundnuts, and 650/= for simsim. Due to speculation for high Christmas sales, price of chicken (live bird) has increased to 4500/= from 4000/= last week. The same trend is anticipated for goat meat, beef and smoked fish. The weather remained to be sunny, dry and hot; which has increased accessibility to rural areas – as more roads become passable, and has allowed proper drying of second season harvest.

Jinja

Following continued rains in the district, some farmers have started harvesting sweet potatoes, which they are using as a substitute for fresh cassava. As a result, price of fresh cassava has fallen from 190/= last week to 155/= a kilo at wholesale level this week. Harvesting of maize continued, which has increased supply. This in turn has reduced maize grain from an average wholesale price of 240/= a kilo last week to 210/= this week. The Christmas shopping frenzy is not yet high in the district; which is reflected in the general constancy of prices and price trend this week.

Kasese

The weather was cool with sunny intervals and rain showers. The marketing season for beans is almost reaching its peak with high demand from Kabale and Busia. Consequently, price rose from an average of 240/= a kilo last week to 330/= this week at wholesale level. Price of maize grain has dropped from 300/= a kilo to an average of 200/= this week. This drop has been attributed to poverty in the villages coupled with high demand for maize, which have lead some farmers to market poor quality maize with high moisture content. Matooke is scarce due to its high demand in the main supplying district of Bushenyi. Consequently, there has been a price increase from an average of 330/= last week, to 350/= this week.

Kampala

It looks like there has been an increase in the supply of a number of commodities in the market due to farmers selling off for Christmas. Particularly, the supply of groundnuts, simsim, and millet has increased slightly. Matooke prices have steadily increased with an average bunch of 20 kilograms costing the consumer 7,000 shillings in Owino and Nakawa as compared to 4,000 shillings the same period last year. Trade in other commodities remained stable. The off lorry price of fresh cassava is now at 20,000 shillings per 100 kg bag while that of Irish potato is at 16,000. However, the traders reported that the demand for cassava of very low and likely to reduce in the next two weeks. Prices of the other commodities remained stable over the week, with no significant price changes.

Lira

Price for simsim has fallen this week due to high supply on the market from second season's harvest. It is now retailing at between 700/= - 800/= and wholesaling at between 550/= to 650/= per kilo. The prices for millet, byeyale beans, soya and sorghum grain still remain constant. As for sunflower, a lot of it is being purchased and taken to Kampala at 220/= per kilo. This is a slight increase from last week's price of 210/=. The district has received some rain for the last two days.

Masaka

The prices of foodstuffs continued to soar both at wholesale and retail levels except for sweet potatoes, which lowered at retail level. The price increase is attributed to scarcity of commodities on the market. Price of groundnuts dropped from 1200/= a kilo to 1000/= this week. This has been due to high supply, especially from stockists in Ssembabule who are selling off old stock in preparation for the new harvest. The price of chicken has risen from 3500/= to 3800/= this week due to the fasting season.

Soroti

Though cloudy and misty, no rains were received in most parts of the district. The prevailing dry conditions have helped farmers to dry cassava, pick cotton and harvest sorghum. Some farmers have even started slicing potatoes. The wholesale price of cassava chips rose from 270/= per kilogram to 300/= during the week due to increased demand, especially for white chips. However, prices for cassava flour continued to decline due to availability of substitutes like sorghum and potatoes whose prices also fell during the week. The wholesale price of sorghum grain dropped from 220/= per kilo to 140/= this week. There was increase in demand for white beans which has pushed its price from 290/= to 300/= per kilo, this week at wholesale level. Other products are relatively stable.

NB: For various commodity prices please check on the spreadsheet.

15 Minutes Radio Program The NEW Market Information Service

Duration: 15 Minutes
Date: 22/12/2000
Author: Namanya Moses

Introduction.

Dear Listeners,

We welcome you once again to "Market News" which brings you information about new developments from the Marketplace and tells you the latest information about commodity prices and the factors, which are affecting prices of agricultural products in Uganda. This Market information service is brought to you by the FOODNET Project and is funded by USAID.

District Market News

Arua

The weather is getting increasingly sunny, windy and dry. Farmers have even lost hope for the normally little rains received during the Christmas season. Prices of most commodities remained stable except for cassava chips whose price has greatly dropped during this week from 380/= down to 300/= wholesale, and from 400/= to 310/= retail, last week. This has been attributed to supply exceeding demand on the market, consequently leading to a price drop. Additionally many people prefer items like sweet potatoes and fresh cassava, which are relatively cheap. Sweet potatoes are wholesaling at 150/= a kilo this week down from 200/= last week. Groundnuts prices went up to 1000/= a kilo this week, up from 950/= last week at wholesale level. The markets are full with traders coming from all parts of the country, including some Masai traders from Kilimanjaro region of western Kenya.

Gulu

A lot of changes have taken place in the market situation since last week despite continued prevalence of Ebola. Movement of goods from rural areas has increased, thus traders now bring more produce on to the market from other districts like Kampala and Mbale. However, transport costs are still high. This week to transport a bag of produce from Gulu to Kampala was costing 3000 – 3500/=. The crops that were harvested in the second season have registered drastic price decreases; as farmers hoping to raise money for Christmas sell more and more produce. Wholesale price of rice fell from 570/= last week to 550/= this week, while that of simsim fell from 650/= to 550/=. The prices of sweet potatoes and fresh cassava respectively dropped from 110/= and 95/= last week to 70/= and 80/= a kilo this week. This has been attributed to farmers selling so as to avoid losses from rotting due to the dry season's intense heat. The weather still remained dry and hot with temperatures ranging between 27 - 30 degrees, and is expected to remain so until mid march 2001, when the earliest rains are expected.

Iganga

A new district has been formed! What used to be Bunya County is now called Mayuge district, and is currently the major supplier of maize on the market. Due increased harvesting of maize grain its price at wholesale level has dropped from last week's 230/= to 180/= this week. The price of maize flour, however, remains stable at an average of 500/= a kilo. Price of matooke has increased from 3600/= a bunch of 15 kilos last week to about 4125/= the same size this week.

Kabale

This week the weather has been both sunny and wet. The food situation in the district has improved after harvesting of mainly beans and maize, which has lead to a drop in their prices. A kilo of beans last week was wholesaling at 450/=. This week, it has dropped to 420/=. Rwanda still provides the major market for the harvested beans. Maize grain and flour were respectively wholesaling at 300/= and 380/= last week, whereas this week they are wholesaling at 250/= and 350/= respectively. However, the old maize stock is available, making the margin small. Millet harvesting has already began in the district, however prices still remain fairly stable.

Kampala

In this last week toward Christmas all major markets in Kampala registered abundant supply of most foodstuffs, but prices showed an increasing trend due to increased demand from shoppers preparing for Christmas. There was also increased demand for beans by traders from Tanzania and Rwanda, which increased the price of beans. In Owino and Nakawa markets beans were wholesaling at 500/= a kilo, while in Kisenyi market they were at 400/=. Maize grain is in high supply as traders dispose off old stock in preparation for the new harvest. The price has consequently dropped this week to 220/= a kilo at wholesale from 250/= last week. Most maize grain comes from Mbale, Kigumba, Lira and Busoga. Most cassava chips supplied during the week were from Tanzania, and the off lorry price in Kisenyi market was 280/= a kilo. Because of collective supply from various regions, the price of matooke has remained fairly stable. An average bunch of 25kgs was selling at 6500/= off lorry and 7000/= wholesale. A 150kg sac of sweet potatoes was selling at between 18,000/= and 22,000/=:, and supply was mainly from Soroti.

Kasese

The weather is sunny and wet, but the rains are not yet very heavy. The sunshine is helping the farmers to dry their maize and the roads are accessible except in the mountains where

cassava is mostly grown. This week, the prices of beans rose from 330/= to 350/= a kilo due to high demand by traders from Kabale, Rwanda and Busia. Those of maize and cassava chips have dropped due to an increase in supply on the market. The Farmers are busy drying their maize grain for sale and are selling cassava chips to get money for Christmas. Sorghum grain has started coming on the market from Kabarole District, where the harvesting season has started. Consequently the price has dropped to 400/= a kilo at wholesale level.

Lira

In Lira main market the prices of most commodities remained constant with few buyers showing up for Christmas shopping, except for simsim which was selling in between 750/= and 800/= retail. There is a moderate supply of matooke on the market, and their price is 133/= a kilo at wholesale with an average bunch of 18kgs retailing at about 3500/=. Higher supply is anticipated for Saturday and Sunday from traders expecting higher profits for Christmas. Supply of sweet potatoes is moderate, with two varieties being found on the market. Most buyers prefer the yellow variety, therefore it is selling at a higher price of 9500/= a sac contrary to the yellow variety that is selling at 7000/=. Cassava continued to be very scarce on the market with a sac selling at 13,000/=. The reason given by some suppliers was that since there is no rain, the soils are so hard that it makes it tiresome to dig out the cassava from the ground. Otherwise, this ending week has been sunny, hot and dry, with no rainfall at all.

Luwero

Consumers have stepped up their purchasing activities fearing that if they wait, prices will go up due to Christmas. The price of beef is still steady at 2000/= retail, but it is anticipated to increase to 2500/= or 3000/= during the Christmas week. Demand for matooke is high and supply is low. Present supply is by bicycle traders who get them from deep in the villages. No importation of matooke from Mbarara and Masaka was reported this week. The most bunches sold are medium sized - of 10- 15kg costing between 4000/= and 5000/= at retail. The large sized bunches are rare because farmers are reserving them for the Christmas week.

Masindi

Dry and dusty conditions are being experienced in most parts of the district. Groundnut farmers are complaining of the hard ground. The price of maize and groundnuts has dropped. The farm-gate price for maize is currently at between 140/= - 150/= compared to 200/= last week. The price is expected to drop further as farmers continue to sell off their maize in a bid to raise money for Christmas celebrations.

Soroti

The wholesale price of matooke has increased from 300/= to 400/= this week. This has been attributed to low supply; a system they are trying to adopt to keep the prices some how up. The wholesale price of cassava fresh has reduce from 87/= last week to 80/= this week. This drop is due to increased supply due to Christmas. Sweet potatoes also registered a fall in wholesale price from 67/= a kilo last week to 53/= this week, also due to increased supply. The prices of most other commodities remained fairly stable.

NB: For various commodity prices please check on the spreadsheet.

Appendix 4: List of district data agents

	DISTRICT	DATA COLLECTOR	POSTAL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	FAX NUMBER
1	Jinja	Muganza James District marketing Office	Box 371, Jinja	043-120711 075-654752	043-121207 043-121322
2	Iganga	Kasubo Sarah Uganda National Chamber of Commerce – Iganga branch.	Box 544 Jinja	043-120936	077401517
3	Tororo	Opio Isaac (Businessman)	Box 364, Tororo		045-45052
4	Mbale	Bumba Wagole (Asst. Marketing Officer)	Box 215	045-34273	041-254576 041-34461
5	Gulu	Oryem Charles, (District Marketing Officer)	Box 2, Gulu	0471-32268	041-250828
6	Masindi	Kasizi Fredrick (District Marketing Officer)	Box 119 Masindi	0465-20495	0465-20411 0465-20100
7	Rakai	Jimm Kava (Deputy Dist Agric Off)	Box 13 Kyotera	0481-20339	077589595
8	Masaka	Wasswa Ssempijja (Min Of Trade)	Box 99, Masaka	C/O Forestry 0481-20089 C/O Kaboine 0481-21440 C/o 077-433395	
9	Mbarara	Niwagaba Justinian District Commercial Officer	Box 1 Mbarara	0485-21138	0485-21304
10	Kabale	Ahimbesibwe Charles (Dist. Co-Op. Off.)	Box 111 Kabale		0486-23200
11	Kasese	Byamukama Martin Senior Marketing Officer	Box 259 Kasese	0483-44032 077-512234	0483-44235 0483-44312
12	Luwero	Kikulwe Enoch Mutebi Luwero Dist. Production Office	P.O Box 62 Luwero	041-610217 C/o Pdn Mgr 077 -467700	041-610132
13	Lira	Taiwo Benson (Lira Dist. Farmers Ass) forward@Swiftuganda.com	Box 798 Lira	0473-20533 0473-20557	0473-20187 041-349729
14	Soroti	Benjamin Adauni Ogunia District commercial Officer - Soroti sddp@infocom.ug.com	BOX 190 Soroti	045-61128 077-511062	04561325
15	Kampala	George Ameny		041-221797	
16	Kitgum	Okema Amic Christopher District Trade Officer	C/o AVSI		
17	Arua	Oboko Ayiga Emmanuel District Marketing Officer	P.O.Box 1 Arua	0476-20201	041-341435
18	Kotido	C/o Simon Peter Egadu Karamoja Project Implementation Unit			
19	Moroto	C/o Simon Peter Egadu Karamoja Project Implementation Unit			
20	Owino Market	Richard Kayira Owino Market Traders Association		077416674	

Appendix 5: Weekly mailing list for market information

harriet-adc@starcom.co.ug
 foodnet@imul.com
 fewsnet@imul.com
 vsfug@infocom.co.ug
 unf@starcom.co.ug
 mpagric@starcom.co.ug
 planmode@infocom.co.ug
 Andyp@imul.com
 ubos@infocom.co.ug
 uepc@starcom.co.ug
 ssemwang@swiftuganda.com
 ivamba@infocom.co.ug
 tns@swiftuganda.com
 rojok@imul.com
 emurphy-pl480@acdivoca-ug.org
 mintrade@starcom.co.ug
 maraka_etesot@hotmail.com
 forward@swiftuganda.com
 uganda@wvi.org
 sddp@imul.com
 kitandwe@hotmail.com
 bucafe@infocom.co.ug
 prisf@starcom.co.ug
 tnanzi@hotmai.com
 worldvision.gulu@wfp.org
 eped@starcom.co.ug
 pvdoren@africaonline.co.ug
 kpui@swiftuganda.com
 kpuim@swiftuganda.com
 radiowst@swiftuganda.com
 mintrade@kila1.afsat.com
 bahiigwa@epc.or.ug
 davidkaiza@hotmail.com
 siminyu_albert@wvi.org
 fumisait@world.ryukoku.ac.jp
 mmusoke@newvision.co.ug
 manu@bizmail.ws
 fremashamba@yahoo.com
 fontana@starcom.co.ug
 rpmsoroti@afsat.com
 benekoot-fosem@acdivoca-ug.org
 acekla@starcom.co.ug
 karihave@starcom.co.ug
 ubos@infocom.co.ug
 radiolira@altavista.com
 kace@arcc.or.ke
 fos@infocom.co.ug
 mugangaka@hotmail.com
fituga@imul.com

Avsi.Kitgum@wfp.org
 Catherine.Operemo@wfp.org
 Simon.Okanya@wfp.org
 Lydia.Okello@wfp.org
 Alzira.Ferreira@wfp.org
 Kiganzi.Nyakato@wfp.org
 wfp.Ntungamo@wfp.org
 wfp.Tororo@wfp.org
 WFP.Bundibugyo@wfp.org
 wfp.kitgum@wfp.org
 Adrian.VanderKnaap@wfp.org
 Moroto@wfp.org
 Kotido@wfp.org
 wfp.pakelle@wfp.org
 Caroline.opok@wfp.org
 Josephine.ojera@wfp.org
 Wfp.Arua@wfp.org
 gopalB@ipsuganda.com
 comusana@ugandainvest.com
 Radiorm.Kitgum@wfp.org
 Radiorm.Arua@wfp.org
 Wfp.Pakelle@wfp.org
 pasar@rwandatell.rwanda1.com
 radioworks@altavista.com
 enobera@fews.net
 srwamasirabo@usaid.gov
 gordonbell@hotmail.com
 shea@covol.org
 Dorothy.Kanyomozi@wfp.org
 statisticsuganda@hotmail.com
 mismasindi@africaonline.co.ug
 misjinja@africaonline.co.ug
 misrakai@africaonline.co.ug
 mismbarara@africaonline.co.ug
 miskasese@africaonline.co.ug
 misgulu@africaonline.co.ug
 worldvision.gulu@wfp.org
 radiowst@swiftuganda.com
 radiorm.Gulu@wfp.org
 Kacebgm@africaonline.co.ke
 Kaceeld@africaonline.co.ke